

The President's Daily Brief

29 July 1972

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~~Top Secret~~

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

29 July 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The fighting in South Vietnam is still heaviest in northern Military Region 1 and along the coast in Binh Dinh Province. (Page 1)

Satellite photography shows an operational Chinese missile site near the Korean border. (Page 2)

Pakistan is preparing to recognize Bangladesh. (Page 3)

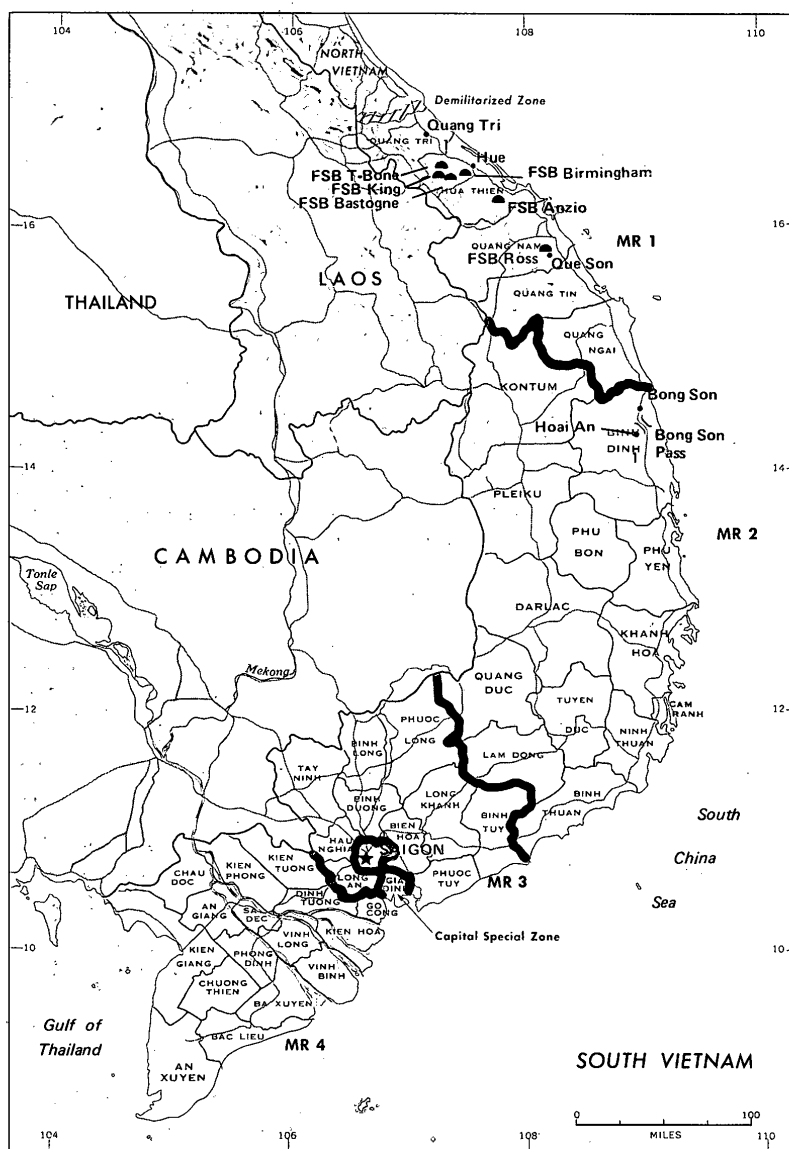
The Soviets are making efforts to extend the combat radius of their Mach 3 Foxbat aircraft. (Page 4)

Chile's army commander is watching closely President Allende's steps to reform the constitution. (Page 5)

The Soviet [redacted] [redacted] it. (Page 6)

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY***SOUTH VIETNAM**

Fighting remains heavy in northern Military Region 1. South Vietnamese Marine units engaged in several sharp ground clashes north of Quang Tri City yesterday, while government forces south and east of the city continued to receive enemy mortar fire. South Vietnamese Airborne units that were withdrawn from the Quang Tri battlefield on 27 July are planning to regroup and refit north of Hue. The Marine Division now has responsibility for all government combat operations in the northernmost province.

In Thua Thien Province, Communist artillery units continued to shell government positions near recently abandoned Fire Support Base Bastogne. They also shelled the other fire support bases which ring Hue in an arc from the north to the south. Intercepts show that the enemy is making extensive preparations for early ground attacks against some of these positions.

Farther south, in Quang Nam Province, enemy units pressed their attack against FSB Ross and have surrounded a regiment of the government's 2nd Division. All three regiments of North Vietnam's 711th Division have been detected in the combat area.

The government's counteroffensive in northern Binh Dinh Province met increased enemy resistance yesterday, and there are signs that the Communists may plan to challenge further the government's presence there.

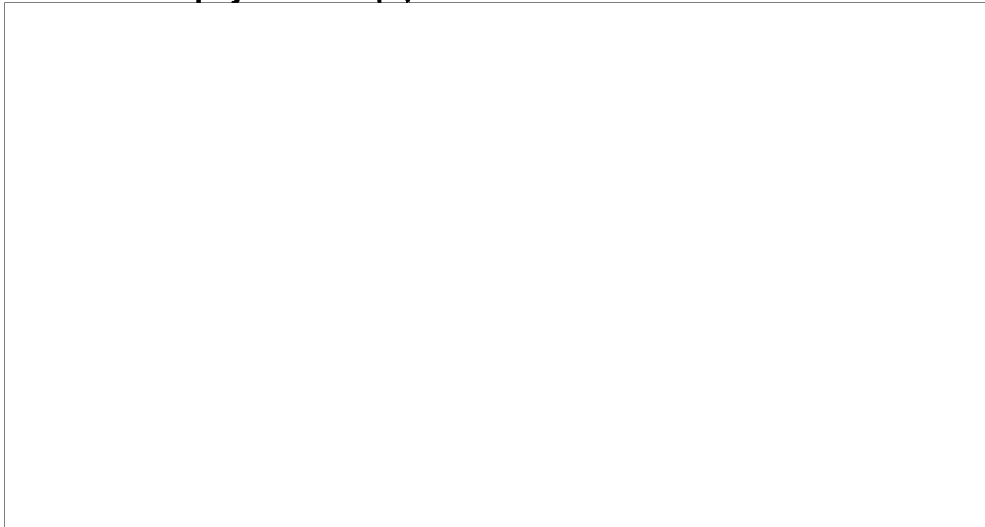
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Heavy fighting is taking place near the district capital of Hoai An. South Vietnamese units attempting to push westward out of Bong Son were forced to pull back into the town.

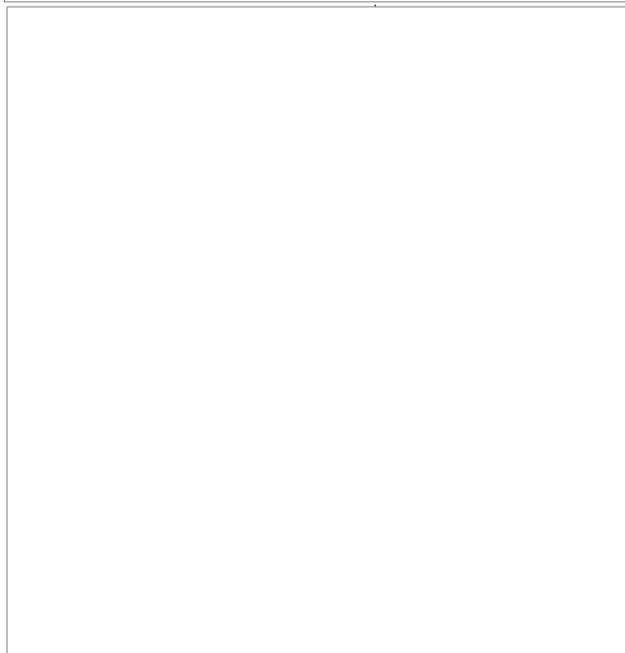
In the delta, enemy activity increased in intensity, particularly in Dinh Tuong Province. A prisoner from the 5th Division--elements of which have been moving into an enemy base area along the Dinh Tuong - Kien Tuong province border--claims that there is heavy infiltration of men and supplies into the redoubt. Recent contacts between South Vietnamese and Communist units tend to confirm the prisoner's information.

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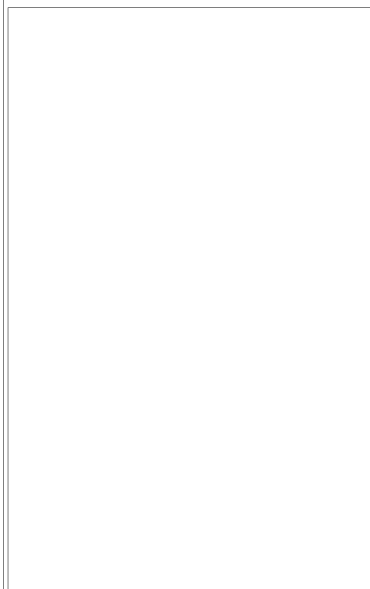
China: Field Deployed CSS-1 Equipment



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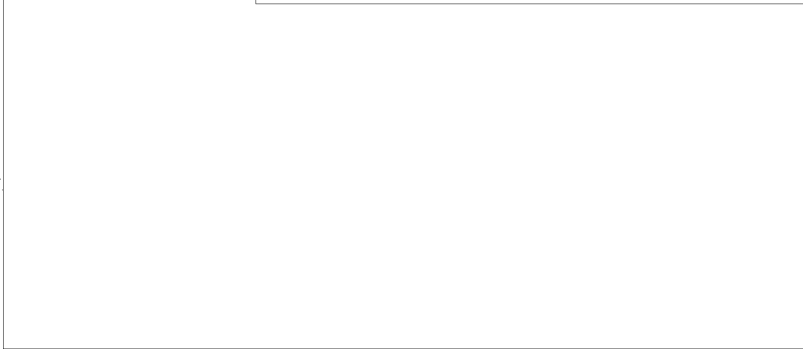
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CHINA

The latest satellite photography has turned up an operational launch site near the Korean border for China's 600-nm ballistic missile, the CSS-1.

Enough equipment for one CSS-1 launch unit has been identified at the site. The missile itself does not appear, 

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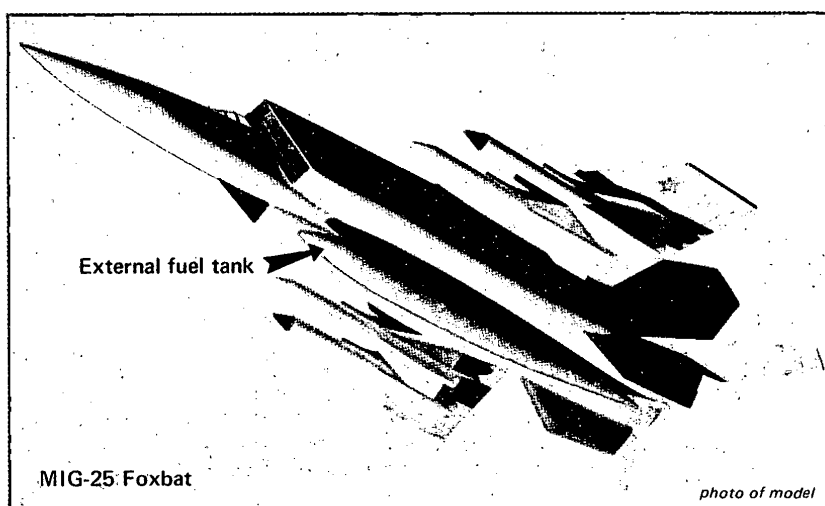
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PAKISTAN-BANGLADESH

The Pakistani information minister has announced that recognition of Bangladesh will be on the agenda of the National Assembly when it meets in mid-August, and his comments indicate that the government expects a favorable vote.

Recognition of Bangladesh would cause President Bhutto little trouble at home, where the majority of the population seems resigned to the move. He has delayed thus far primarily because recognition is one of the few bargaining chips he has for negotiations with the Indians and the Bengalis. Neither New Delhi nor Dacca, however, is likely to make any significant concession to obtain recognition, but Bangladesh had made recognition a pre-condition for any talks with Islamabad.

The key unresolved issues between Pakistan and Bangladesh are the repatriation of prisoners of war, war crimes trials, the exchange of minority groups, and the division of the assets and liabilities the two countries shared before East Pakistan became independent.



Length..... 65 feet
Wingspan..... 47 feet
Speed..... 1,600 knots (Mach 3)
Combat ceiling... 80,000 feet



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USSR

Satellite photography of the Foxbat production facility at Gorkiy and Soviet flight test centers shows several large, aerodynamically shaped fuel tanks, evidently for use on the Mach 3 Foxbat beneath the fuselage. The capacity of the tank is about 10,000 pounds of fuel. The tank has not yet been seen at an operational Foxbat base.

The tank will extend the Foxbat's supersonic combat radius while fully armed with four air-to-air missiles from 420 nautical miles to about 600 nm and its subsonic radius from 800 nm to about 1,100 nm.

[redacted]
Soviet designator for the Foxbat is the MIG-25.

[redacted]
[redacted] the designator for the other new Mikoyan fighter--the swing-wing Flogger--
[redacted]

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CHILE

General Prats, the Army commander in chief, has ordered military legal experts to give him a detailed analysis of the controversy between President Allende and Congress over the procedure on reforming the constitution to redefine the government's role in the economy [REDACTED]

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Prats' actions show the growing politicization of the military under Allende. Although some officers have made their individual views known, this close examination of political issues is extraordinary for the army as an institution. This could lead to problems if Prats concludes that Allende is acting improperly, but the President has announced that he will abide by the decision of the constitutional tribunal.

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NOTES

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